

Battle Creek Current



August 2015

City Manager's Corner



All of us here at the City of Battle Creek want to help create a vibrant place where people like you — our residents, those who work here and visitors — want to live, work and play.

To show you how we're always working toward that goal, we're sharing our mission and vision statements with you in this newsletter. You may already have seen it at the bottom of our emails, on our letterhead, and we're planning to use it in other ways in the future.

These statements were developed by the City Commission and city staff and we have a set of eight goals, or results, that will help us achieve our mission and vision, as we continue to serve our community:

- *Fosters economic vitality
- *Provides recreational, cultural and leisure opportunities
- *Develops and maintains reliable and up-to-date infrastructure
- *Ensures well-planned growth and development
- *Practices and encourages environmental stewardship
- *Ensures residents and visitors feel safe in Battle Creek
- *Offers a connected, accessible and reliable transportation network
- *Fosters vibrant, healthy neighborhoods

August/September Calendar —

- **City Commission**, 7 p.m., City Hall — Aug. 4 and 18; Sept. 1 and 15
City Commission work session, 5:30 p.m., City Hall — Aug. 18
- **Sustainable BC Committee**, 4 p.m., Dept. of Public Works Room 204, 150 S. Kendall St. — Aug. 5
- **What's Brewing in Battle Creek** with mayor/vice mayor, 5:30 p.m. Aug. 6, Shawarma's Queen, 643 Capital Ave. SW
- **Kanoe the Kazoo**, Saylor's Landing to Historic Bridge Park leg, 9:15 a.m. Aug. 8
More details: www.bcwater.org
- **Historic District Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall — Aug. 10; Sept. 14
- **Zoning Board of Appeals**, 4 p.m., City Hall — Aug. 11; Sept. 8
- **Zoning Board & Historic District** petition deadlines — Aug. 14; Sept. 18
- **Bicycle Advisory Committee**, 3 p.m., City Hall — Aug. 20; Sept. 17
- **Civil Service Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall — Aug. 24; Sept. 28
- **Planning Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall — Aug. 26; Sept. 23
- **Planning Commission** petition deadline — Aug. 28; Sept. 25
- **Recyclerama**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Aug. 29, Bailey Park; more info on city website
- City offices **closed**/no BC Transit bus/van services — Sept. 7
- **BC Transit LCC**, 1:30 p.m., Dept. of Public Works — Sept. 8
BC Transit LAC, approx. 2 p.m., Dept. of Public Works — Sept. 8
- **Fall cleanup** — Sept. 21-25

Mayor Deb Owens holds office hours from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday in City Hall Room 202.

New city mission, vision

We are pleased to share with everyone our city mission and vision statements, developed by the City Commission and our city staff.

We believe these statements reflect the spirit of the City of Battle Creek as a unit of local government, as well as explain what we do and our intentions.

We are committed to always pursue these statements!

Mission: To ensure a safe, prosperous & culturally enriched community.

Vision: We envision Battle Creek as an extraordinary community where people choose to live, work & play.

Consumers Energy meter changes happening in BC

This summer and in 2016, Battle Creek and surrounding residents will receive upgraded electric meters from Consumers Energy.

The company is upgrading meter technology for 1.8 million electric customers and 600,000 natural gas customers who also receive electric service. The upgrade will allow remote daily meter reads through the cellular telephone network.

The text-type messages are received once daily by Consumers and aim to enhance customer service with enhanced billing accuracy and online access to energy use information, allowing cus-

tomers to track their energy usage more closely and predict their bill amount before it arrives.

Outage notifications will be sent directly from the meters to Consumers starting in the spring of 2016.

The southwest part of the city and parts of Springfield and Bedford and Leroy townships will be upgraded this summer.

The rest of Battle Creek and Calhoun County will see upgrades in 2016.

More information is available at

www.consumersenergy.com/smartenergy.



City of Battle Creek

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www.battlecreekmi.gov

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Fax, (269) 966-6654

City Clerk, (269) 966-3348

Code Compliance, (269) 966-3387

Fire Department administration, 195 E. Michigan Ave., (269) 966-3519

Police Department, 20 N. Division St., (269) 966-3322

Non-emergency, (269) 781-0911

Department of Public Works, 150 S. Kendall St., (269) 966-3343

Parks & Recreation/Full Blast Fitness Center, 35 Hamblin Ave., (269) 966-3431

Transit, 339 W. Michigan Ave., (269) 966-3474

Utility Billing, (269) 966-3366

W.K. Kellogg Airport, 15551 S. Airport Road, (269) 966-3470

City Commission

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PublicInput@battlecreekmi.gov
CityClerk@battlecreekmi.gov

See our website for a full staff directory.



Learn more about city departments and services on Vice Mayor Lynn Ward Gray's AccessVision TV show, *Keeping You Informed*. It appears on Channels 17 and 917 at 6 p.m. Wednesdays and online, accessvision.tv.

August: Economic Development town hall
September: Fire prevention/burning

Linear Park interactive map

The Linear Park now features an online interactive map!

Visitors can scan our QR code (at right) to access the map, which features photos of various attractions and locations along the park path. Look for this code on park signs in the near future!

The Linear Park is perfect for running, walking, strollers, bicycles and educational opportunities, as it features unique plant, animal, picnicking, playgrounds, fishing, historical and cultural points of interest. Visit the new map and enjoy!



Get to know: DPW Records

Manager: Andrew Michalowski
Phone: (269) 966-3343

The Department of Public Works Records Division is fairly "young," created in 2003 because the Engineering Division needed someone to oversee new developments — including subdivisions, utilities and roads — ensure all of those were built to city specifications and, ultimately, maintain city utility records.

This division now coordinates new water and sewer connections, right-of-way permits, utility Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping, DPW records maintenance and utility locating.

Working with the Michigan MISS DIG system is one of DPW Records' most important functions. This is a free service for home owners, excavators, municipalities and utility companies. Before doing any work that requires digging, call 811 to request that utility owners come to the property and mark their utilities. Typically, a contractor makes the call.

DPW Records marks water, sewer

and storm sewer lines in the right-of-way — not on private property. Our staff members consult our street and facility drawings and use spray paint and/or flags to mark those locations.

Get more information on MISS DIG at www.missdig.org.

The city is responsible for maintaining the right of way, which is the public area from city streets to the back of sidewalks, and everything beneath. Typically, this area is about 66 feet wide.

We maintain a records room with information dating back to the late 1800s. We have many utility drawings of areas throughout the city and these maps are important because they give us information about which utility structures are installed and where, helping us locate and maintain those utilities.

DPW Records maintains information on water and sewer connections, which are important for maintenance since they include maps of service locations. Our utility crews use these records

daily.

All of the records we create now will become critical in the future for those who maintain these services. This is why our large, ongoing project is to digitize our utility records in a format that's easy to use. This includes adding structure locations to our GIS data, like water and sewer lines, manholes and much more.

We connect this information to a work order system that makes our maintenance work more efficient. We're also working to take this mobile, so our crews in the field can look up records and update work orders from the road.

All of this work contributes to the city's goal of establishing an asset management plan, which we will use to assess the health of our infrastructure and improve our decision making to maintain and improve the utility systems our residents rely on every day.

DPW Records helps our department run efficiently, and also contributes to the safety of citizens and workers by informing everyone about our utility system.

